



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

"Parks Make Life Better!"

Russ Guiney, Director

John Wicker, Chief Deputy Director

December 22, 2014

TO: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: Russ Guiney
Director

SUBJECT: **PROPOSED PLAN TO PRODUCE A COUNTYWIDE COMPREHENSIVE
PARKS AND RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT (ITEM NO. 65-B,
AGENDA OF NOVEMBER 12, 2014 – MOTION BY MAYOR
ANTONOVICH AND SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS)**

On November 12, 2014, on motion by Mayor Antonovich and Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, Agenda Item No. 65-B was approved; and the Chief Executive Officer and the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation were directed to:

- Report back to the Board in writing within 30 days with a plan to produce a Countywide Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment.

On December 11, 2014, the Department requested an extension until December 22, 2014 to provide the attached report back to the Board.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (213) 738-2951 or your staff may contact Jane I. Beesley, Administrator of the Regional Park and Open Space District at (213) 738-2981.

RG:JW:HS:JB:lb

Attachment

c: Acting Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors (P. Ogawa)
County Counsel (M. Saladino)
Chief Executive Office (S. Hamai, R. Robinson, R. Goff, D. Wei)
Park Deputies (T. Villegas, K. Katona, M. Chong-Castillo, E. Stibal, S. Nemer)

PROPOSAL FOR
DEVELOPMENT
OF A
COUNTYWIDE
COMPREHENSIVE
PARKS AND
RECREATION NEEDS
ASSESSMENT

FY 2015

County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

STEERING COMMITTEE

- Establish the processes for the implementation of the Needs Assessment
- Establish criteria for the development of priority projects.

PLANNING AREAS

SURVEY OF COUNTYWIDE RECREATIONAL ASSETS

- Existing parks and facilities
 - Acreage and Amenities
- Deferred Maintenance Liabilities
- Summary of Existing Assets and Liabilities

EXISTING CONDITIONS ANALYSIS AND BASELINE ESTABLISHMENT

- Population Analysis
- Spatial Need Analysis
 - Census Data and Trends
- Baseline of Park Acreage Needs

LAND INVENTORY AND OPPORTUNITY ANALYSIS

- Public Land
- Vacant Land
- Underutilized Land

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Toolkit and Trainings
- Stipend

SUMMARY REPORT

- Future Projects
- Cost Estimate
- Priority Projects Summary

Work Scope/Approach

STEERING COMMITTEE

The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will work with the Board of Supervisors and the Consultant to establish a project steering committee to oversee the Needs Assessment process and provide guidance on the development of the Final Report and associated deliverables.

Purpose

The Steering Committee will establish the processes for the implementation of the Needs Assessment, which include, but are not limited to developing the criteria for establishing park boundary areas, establishing criteria for the development of priority projects and providing review of the Final Report.

Participants

The Steering Committee is proposed to include the following for each Supervisorial District:

- One representative from each Supervisorial District Staff
- Two representatives from community-based organizations working on park and recreation issues in the Supervisorial District
- Two community-at-large representatives

In addition to the five (5) representatives from each Supervisorial District, representatives from each of the Council of Governments (COG), along with a representative from the cities not represented by a COG will be invited to participate in the Steering Committee. The membership on the overall Steering Committee will also include representatives from DPR and the Department of Beaches and Harbors (DBH). Overall makeup of the steering committee will be coordinated with DPR.

PLANNING AREAS

DPR will work with the Consultant and the Steering Committee to define planning areas to be used in developing the Final Report. Although the Needs Assessment will be comprehensive for the County as a whole, it will be imperative to define certain planning areas within the County to ensure that communities receive equal representation in the assessment and prioritization of projects. While the County has established Park Planning Areas to geographically define unincorporated areas, and city boundaries are defined, the analysis will look beyond and between these definitions to ensure that population and demographics remain front and center to allow the needs of all County residents to be considered equally; for this reason, population density, demographics, and existing service levels will be considered in defining planning areas. Planning area boundaries will be established to address community-specific needs rather than applying a broad-brush approach to distinct areas, as well as to ensure that the distribution of future projects is equitable throughout the County.

APPROACH

INVENTORY OF COUNTYWIDE RECREATIONAL ASSETS

DPR and the Consultant will develop a survey for gathering inventory data for existing parks, recreation, and related assets Countywide. Data will be gathered from cities and relevant County Departments as well as State and local agencies and community based organizations. Although the methodology for gathering data will be determined during the project initiation phase of the project and with input from the Steering Committee, it will likely be accessible via an online portal where staff can input data directly to a database system. The survey will focus on both existing facilities and infrastructure as well as liabilities/deferred maintenance to provide a realistic examination of the total financial need Countywide.

Existing Inventory

The Needs Assessment will compile a comprehensive inventory of all Countywide parks and recreation facilities in both cities and unincorporated areas. In 2012, DPR completed a parks facilities information list for all parks it operates in the County. To expand this list, the Consultant will solicit feedback from City, Agency and other Department staff in the county regarding their parks facilities and plans. Although the evaluation criteria may be expanded, we anticipate the toolkit to evaluate the following:

- Confirmation of the location and size of existing park, open space, recreational and cultural facilities
- Identification of any new park, open space, recreational and/or cultural projects in development
- Identification of pedestrian, bicycle, and transit access ways outside of the street and trails network
- List of park amenities
- Qualitative evaluation of amenities
- List of needed amenities or capital improvements
- Potential parkland opportunity sites or projects awaiting funding including status

If information regarding new park space or new pedestrian and bicycle access ways is identified, it will be incorporated in the spatial analysis.

Deferred Maintenance Liabilities

The Consultant will additionally create a template to collect a deferred maintenance list and costs at existing parks, as well as any needed infrastructural improvements, to be used by staff in cities within Los Angeles County.

Summary of Existing Assets and Liabilities

Based on the results of the above tasks, the Consultant will compile the data received from City, Agency and other Department Staff with data received from DPR regarding County facilities to create a comprehensive matrix of existing amenities and services. The existing conditions for each City or study area will be compared with national park and recreation standards as well as feedback from community members regarding amenity preferences.

APPROACH

EXISTING CONDITIONS ANALYSIS AND BASELINE ESTABLISHMENT

The Consultant will use existing data to determine where there is the greatest need for parks and open space in the County, comparing existing facilities, population density, demographics information, and access against the County open space standards. While cities may have their own park need standards, this countywide assessment will use County standards to assess park needs consistently throughout the County.

Population Analysis

The Los Angeles County General Plan is being updated and is proposed to include a park standard of 4 acres of park per 1,000 residents. Utilizing the boundaries defined in the Project Definition phase, the Consultant will compare the existing parks-to-population ratios within these areas to determine which communities have an open space deficit.

Spatial Analysis

The Consultant will utilize data from Los Angeles County and the US Census to develop service area and spatial needs maps. The service area map will display the current service areas of the existing parks in Los Angeles County based on the County's standard service area distances (Children having access to a park within a half of a mile). The spatial needs map will provide a more detailed analysis, incorporate the existing street networks, including pedestrian, bicycling, and transit access ways to determine park service areas and data related to population, demographics, and tree canopy coverage to show the areas with the highest need for open space in the County. Factors related to demographics will include population percentages for population age 19 and younger and households with income less than the County median income. Additional demographic factors may be considered and will be discussed with the County. **(See Attachment A for an example of the Spatial Analysis deliverables)**

LAND INVENTORY AND OPPORTUNITY ANALYSIS

The Consultant will work to develop a spatial inventory of parkland opportunities, identifying public land, underutilized land, and vacant land. The Consultant will utilize data from the Los Angeles County Assessor's Office and possibly with environmental mapping specialists to enhance the database of opportunity sites with enriched on-the-ground data.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Local outreach events will be held to engage community members in the identification and prioritization of future projects. This will include a survey about park needs and priorities in each community. To facilitate outreach events, the Consultant will develop an outreach toolkit. The outreach toolkit and training sessions will be provided to staff of DPR, and its partner cities, state and local agencies, various County departments and relevant community-based organizations. Although it is likely that the organizations will differ slightly in their outreach event approach, by formalizing outreach materials we can better ensure that data collected is comparable and usable at the larger countywide scale.

APPROACH

Although collected data may change during the development of the needs assessment, it is likely that the Toolkit will include the following:

- Maps identifying opportunity sites and priority areas
- Voting exercises for types of open space and recreation opportunities
- Voting exercises for specific amenities

DPR, the cities, as well as state and local agency partners have a variety of challenges in accomplishing community engagement. To address these challenges and to facilitate community engagement, this plan includes a stipend of \$2,500 for each planning area that will allow flexibility in approach. The stipend could be used to enhance existing outreach practices and processes for this effort and/or to hire a community based organization to perform these tasks for the planning area.

SUMMARY REPORT

The Consultant will combine the findings from the Existing Conditions/Baseline Development study, including spatial needs maps, staff feedback, and community outreach results, into a concise and graphically-rich document. The final document will also include a list of candidate priority park development and improvement projects – geographically dispersed by boundaries identified in the Project Definition Task. These projects will be analyzed for cost and prioritization to ensure that the ballot initiative can be crafted with real projects in mind.

Future Projects

Based on feedback from city, agency, and various department staff and community members, a list of park facility needs will be developed for each area and future parkland opportunities will be spatially identified.

Cost Estimate

The Consultant's economist will develop a cost for each type of recreational amenity, based on DPR's design standards. This will enable each entity to produce a cost estimate for refurbishment as well as new recreational amenities that is viable and comparable with others across the county. There will also be created a base/average cost of land acquisition to enable a development for costs and comparisons that are consistent with each other.

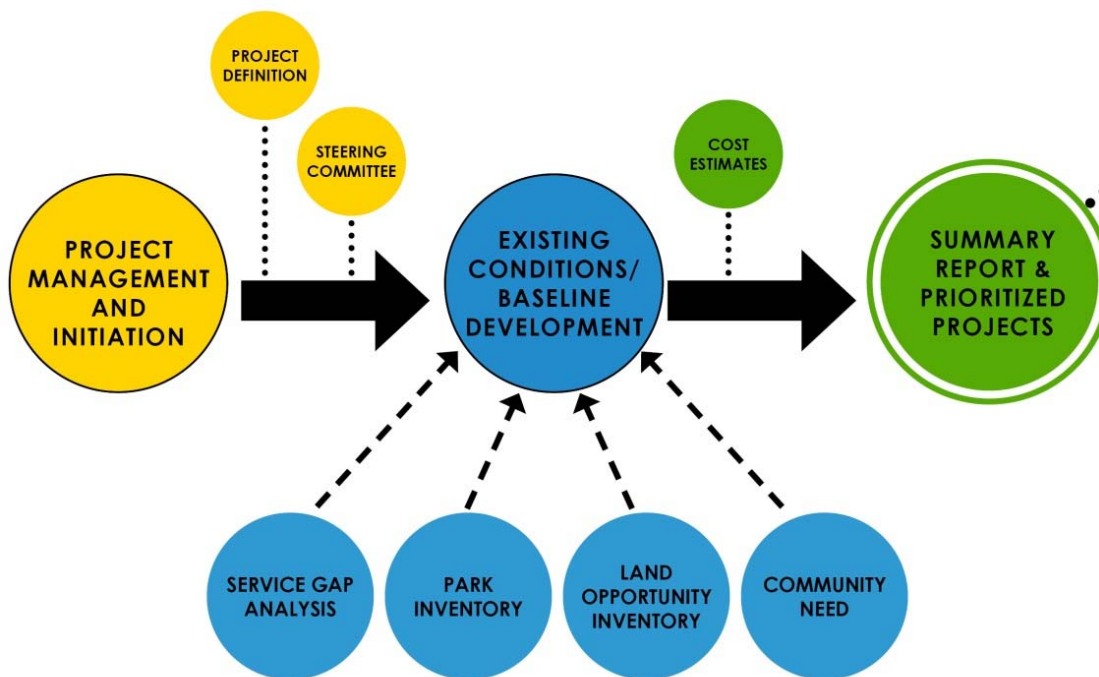
The Consultant's economist will develop a cost estimate for projects in each boundary area. The cost estimate will take into account a standardized cost for developing the needed facilities, acquiring parkland opportunity sites, or paying for deferred maintenance, as well as estimating land values to apply to the different planning areas. Although these costs will be estimates, they will provide a consistent comparison to further clarify rough costs to address identified park needs.

APPROACH

Prioritized Projects Summary

The Consultant will compile a final list of prioritized projects for each geographic area, including both facilities and designated parkland spaces. This list will serve as a “wish list” for review and consideration of funding sources that are available or a potential new ballot initiative and serve as a reference for how tax revenue will be used throughout the County for park, open space and recreational purposes.

Figure 1. Summary of Approach



APPROACH

Timeline

DECEMBER, 2014:

- Present DPR Approach Report to the Board/CEO
- Prepare Scope of Work

JANUARY, 2015:

- Finalize Scope of Work
- Establish Funding

FEBRUARY, 2015:

- Review Consultant Proposal
- Issue a Notice to Proceed

MARCH, 2015 TO MAY, 2016 (14 MONTHS):

- Commence and Develop the Needs Assessment

*To meet this aggressive timeline the DPR will need to utilize a firm from one of the Department of Parks and Recreation's As-Needed Consultants.

APPROACH

Cost Estimate

COUNTYWIDE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

STEERING COMMITTEE & TASKS

SURVEY OF COUNTYWIDE RECREATIONAL ASSETS

EXISTING CONDITIONS ANALYSIS AND BASELINE ESTABLISHMENT

LAND INVENTORY AND OPPORTUNITY ANALYSIS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SUMMARY REPORT

COUNTY STAFFING AND MANAGEMENT

TOTAL ESTIMATE

\$3.0M

EXISTING INVENTORY

	SIZE (ACRES)	PARK AMENITIES							PLAY- GROUND			RECREATION AMENITIES							BUILDINGS/STRUCTURES												Security Lighting	Parking Spaces					
		Restrooms	Group Picnic Shelters	Picnic Tables	Barbecues	Splash Pads	Fitness Zone	Outdoor Stage	Drinking Fountains	Art or Monument	2-5 year old	5- 12 year old	2-12 year old	Soft Ball Fields	Multi-purpose Overlay Field	Soccer Fields	Football Field	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Handball Courts	Lake	Skate Park	Walking Path	Swimming Pool/Bath House	Community building	Senior Center	Offices	Gymnasium	Multi-purpose Room	Computer Lab	Library	Concession Stand	Commercial Kitchen	Sheriff's Office			
Local Parks																																					
Atlantic Avenue Park	1.96	1	2			1					1													1													
City Terrace Park	15.31		1			1		1			1		1	2		1		1	1	1				1	1		1	1	1	1							100
Obregon Park	10.94		1				1				1		1	2		2		1		3				1	1		1	1	3	1							55
Parque de los Suenos	1.61		1								1	1	1					1																			
Salazar Park	7.92		1				1						1	2	1			1	2			1		1	1	1	1	1	6	1			1			200	
Saybrook Park	7.06		1								1		1	1				2	1						1		1		1	1							25
Facilities																																					
Belvedere Community Regional Park	30.74		4				1						1	3	1	2	1	2	2			1		1	1		3	1	2	1	1	1		1			114
TOTAL	75.54	1	11			2	3	1			5	1	6	10	2	5	1	8	6	4	1	2		5	5	1	7	4	13	5	1	1	1	1			

PLANNING AREA PROFILE

East Los Angeles Population: 126,496

Los Angeles County Standard: 4 acres / 1,000 people

- Total amount of open space needed in East Los Angeles: 506 acres

Existing Park Acres: **75.54 acres**

- 0.6 acres / 1,000 people

EXISTING CONDITIONS

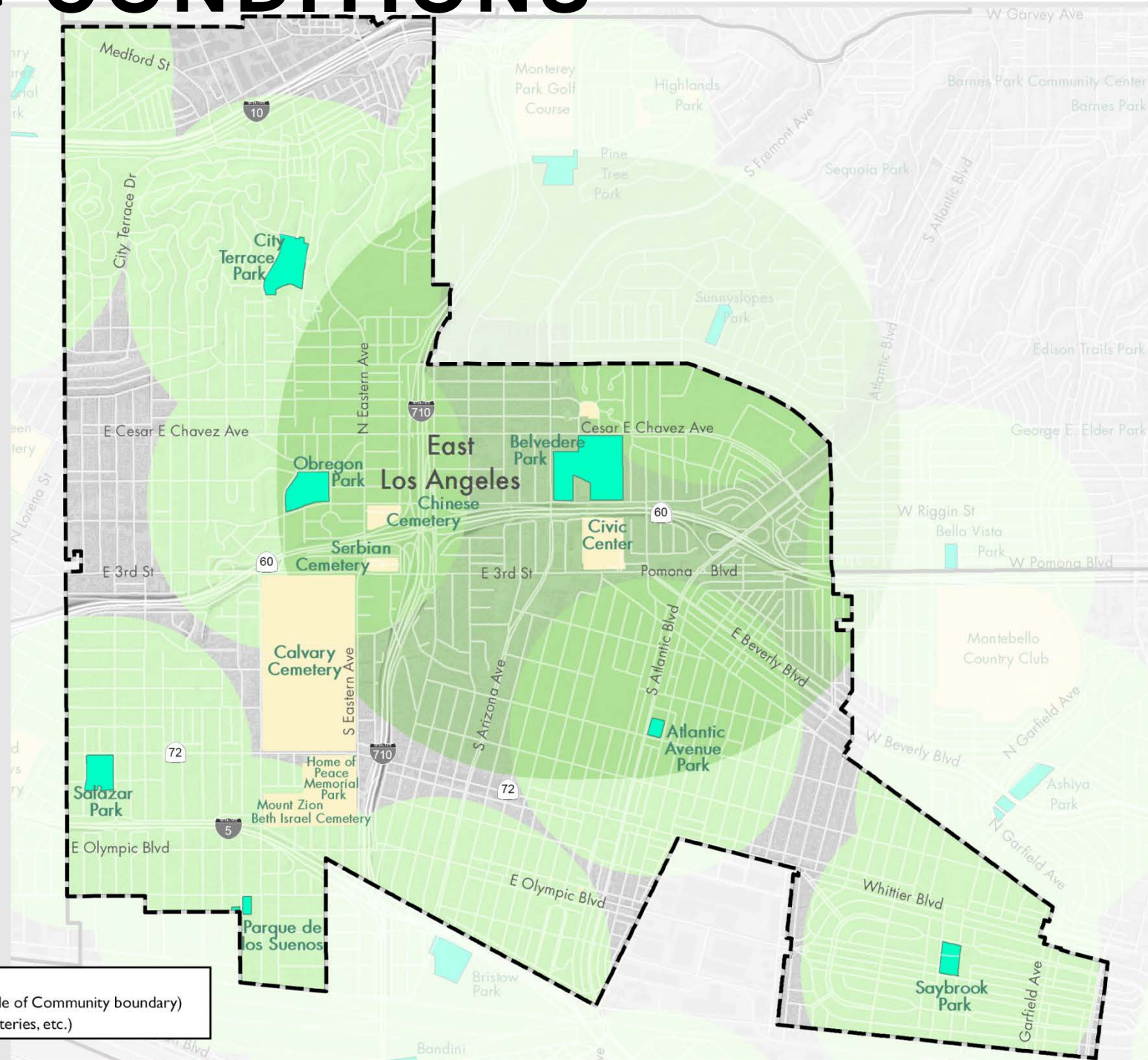
PLANNING AREAS

Park Access

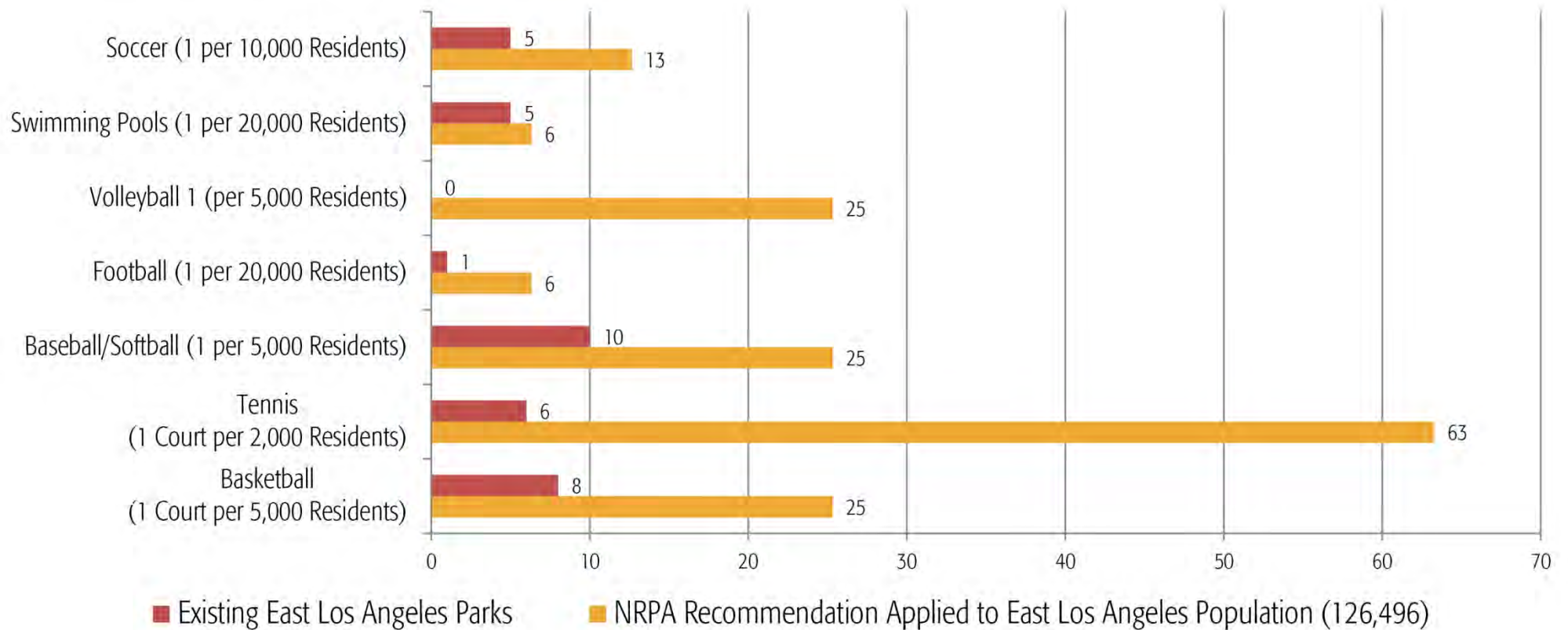
- Areas Not Within 1 Mile of a Regional Park
- 1 Mile Service Radius from Regional Parks
- 1/2 Mile Service Radius from Local Parks

Parklands

- Parks Included in Analysis (includes parks within 1/2 mile of Community boundary)
- Other Open Space (historical parks, golf courses, cemeteries, etc.)



EXISTING PARK NEEDS



EXISTING TRENDS

Table 2 **Participation Rates for Various Sports and Leisure Activities**

